

Serial No. Unassigned

Filed: Herewith

Title: METHOD OF PASSIVATING AN OXIDE SURFACE SUBJECTED TO A CONDUCTIVE MATERIAL ANNEAL

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**Amendments to the Specification**

Please insert the following new paragraph at page 1, line 6:

This is a continuation of application Serial No. 10/263,921, filed October 3, 2002 (pending), which is a divisional of application Serial No. 09/631,329 filed August 3, 2000 and issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,559,053, which is a divisional of application Serial No. 09/146,296 filed September 3, 1998 and issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,555,455, which are all incorporated herein by reference in their respective entireties.